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title: Regarding problem faced by railway passengers in Sivagangai Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): Hon. Speaker, thank you and our hon. Chief Minister, Amma for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter during the `Zero Hour'.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister through this august House that in my Sivaganga Parliamentary constituency the persons traveling by railways are more in number. The Rameswaram Express now operating between Chennai and Rameswaram. It passes through my constituency, namely Karaigudi Junction and Sivaganga station. Sivaganga is the district headquarters of my district. The adjacent district of Ramanathapuram is the district headquarters. Most of the Government officials are residing at Karaigudi and they regularly travel from Karaigudi to Sivaganga and to Rameswaram by train. They are in possession of seasonal tickets. Most of the passengers have to travel standing because of non-availability of seats in the trains. I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to issue instructions to the concerned authorities to allot two separate coaches for the seasonal ticket holders from Karaigudi to Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram. The Government of Tamil Nadu `Amma' mineral water bottle at the cost of Rs. 10 for passengers traveling by bus. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to adopt the Tamil Nadu model and supply `Rail Neer' water bottle at the cost of Rs. 10 for passengers traveling by train.

Silambu Express train operates between Chennai and Manamadurai twice a week. It needs to be run on regular basis. It would be a great help to the people. The Pallavan Express Train now terminates at Karaigudi. It may be extended up to Mana Madurai. Much progress has not been made in the broad gauge conversion of Karaigudi and Pattukotai and Thiruvaroor railway section for a long time. The Union Government should allocate necessary funds for the speedy completion of this project. First class AC coaches should be included in the Sethu, Rameswaram Silambu Express for the convenience of the passengers. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra. is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P.R.Senthilnathan.